



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS, NEW MEMBERS

The tenth meeting of the Council for Christian Social Action, the first under the new Constitution of the United Church of Christ, was held in Washington, D. C., September 12 to 14.

A major order of business was the election of officers for the biennium. Chosen to lead the affairs of the Council were: Chairman, the Reverend Walter S. Press, pastor of El Camino Church, Carmichael, California; vice-chairman, the Reverend A. Wm. Loos, New York; secretary, Mrs. Robert McGeehan, Hazleton, Pennsylvania; and treasurer, the Reverend Clarence E. Josephson, Northbrook, Illinois. Members of the executive committee, in addition to the officers, are the Reverend Henry C. Koch, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. John Bennett, New York; Mr. Leonard Brecher, Louisville, Kentucky; and Mr. Arthur Shores, Birmingham, Alabama.

In accordance with the by-laws of the United Church the eighteen members elected to the Council by the General Synod (see CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY for September) elected in additional members: For terms expiring in 1963—the Reverend Theodore A. Braun, State College, Pennsylvania; the Reverend Ralph Hyslop, New York; Dr. Park J. White, St. Louis, Missouri. For terms expiring in 1965—the Reverend George L. Alley, Suffolk, Virginia; the Reverend Roy J. Eilers, Alden, Iowa; the Reverend James H. Lightbourne, Jr., Atlanta, Georgia. For terms expiring in 1967—Miss Jean Fairfax, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mr. Byron Johnson, Washington, D. C.; and the Reverend Lineo Katagiri, Seattle, Washington.

Adopt By-Laws

Although the Council has been operating intensely and unitedly since its formation at the time of the Uniting General Synod in June, 1957 this session was occupied far more than most with necessary questions of organization and administration. At this meeting the Council

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The Reverend Walter S. Press, pastor of the El Camino Church, Carmichael, California, was elected chairman of the Council for Christian Social Action for the biennium 1961 - 1963.

SERVICE OF INDUCTION

In an impressive service in the new sanctuary of the First Congregational Church of Washington, D. C., Dr. Lewis I. Maddocks was solemnly inducted into his position as Washington secretary of the Council for Christian Social Action by the Reverend Walter S. Press, Council chairman. Participating in the service were the Reverend David Colwell, pastor of the church; the Reverend Henry C. Koch, D.D., former chairman of the Council; the Reverend Ray Gibbons, D.D., director of the Council; and Dr. Fred Buschmeyer, director of the Washington Office of the National Council of Churches to which Dr. Maddocks will be related.

In a strong address on "Christian Responsibility for Government", Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy, associate general secretary of the National Council, pointed out the inevitably increasing influence of the national government upon the lives of individuals and the reluctance of our

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Synod Provides for Conscientious Objectors

Both the Congregational Christian and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches have stressed the individual's responsibility to make his decisions conscientiously on the basis of his understanding of the will of God. Consequently, both denominations extended the same pastoral concern to the minority of their membership who have conscientious scruples against participation in war or military service as to the vast majority who believe that there is a necessary place for armaments and military service.

After the formation of the United Church of Christ in June, 1957, responsibility for counselling and looking after the interests of conscientious objectors from both constituencies was entrusted to the Council for Christian Social Action. This was done on the basis of existing expressions of support by the uniting denominations.

In the Third General Synod at Philadelphia this past summer, the United Church of Christ affirmed for itself its desire "to hold within its fellowship and love all those whose consciences are bound to Christ—those who accept the call to military service as well as those who refuse to participate in it"; recognized the right of conscientious objection; called upon pastors and congregations to hold those who take this position closely within the fellowship; and charged the Council for Christian Social Action "to provide such information and assistance as may be desirable and necessary to aid such conscientious objectors in the enjoyment of their rights and in the fulfillment of their responsibilities." The resolution detailing this assignment was printed in full in the Statements of the General Synod which were circulated as a supplement to the September issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

Pastors and counsellors of youth can be of substantial assistance to young people, whether or not they are clear in their convictions regarding participation in military service, by occasionally calling at-

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MORE ON THE COMMITTEE

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY has no desire to prolong the sad story of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. As our readers well know, of 64 persons arrested at the time of the demonstrations which formed the basis of the edited film, *Operation Abolition*, charges against 63 were dismissed.

The sixty-fourth person, Robert Meisenbach, this spring went on trial. The police did not even claim (as did the film) that he or anyone else had "leaped a barricade" and started an attack upon the police. The brief scuffle in which he was involved occurred *after* a policeman had attacked him. In the light of the evidence, the jury acquitted Mr. Meisenbach. Thus, one more statement in the sound commentary of the film has been shown to be false.

The story of the San Francisco demonstrations, with not only the bitter experience of the West Coast with the Committee which formed the background or the demonstrations but the entire record of this congressional curiosity, has been written up in a paper back Ballentine book, *The Un-Americans*, written by Frank J. Donner and retailing for 60c. From its own records the author documents the legislatively pointless, often cruel worrying of individuals and its disregard for the rights and dignities of citizens. Mr. Donner, a member of the National Lawyers' Guild, who has appeared before the Committee as a witness, also points out the close cooperation between the Committee and private "patriotic" groups and sensational newspapers.

Especially interesting to church people will be the review of the efforts of the Committee to "smear" representative churchmen whether eminent proponents of social action or scholars identified with the Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Even after charges that hundreds of clergymen are Communists and thousands fellow-travelers, in many cases made by proved perjurers and ex-Communist informers whose relation to the Party terminated more than a decade ago, had been discredited, Chairman Walter and Counsel Arens are quoted as accusing leaders of the National Council of Churches of Communist front affiliations. The role of fundamentalist hate groups in providing charges and "evidence" against responsible church organizations is indicated.

Perhaps Congressman Scherer's complaint is more significant in describing the character of vital Christianity than he realizes: "They don't want freedom of religion. They want freedom of criticism."

Analysis Questioned

Many clergymen have recently received from the Chamber of Commerce of the United States a gift copy of a pocket sized paperback book with a \$1 imprint, entitled *The Kohler Strike*, written by Sylvester Petro and published by Regnery.

Anticipating the queries of pastors who may be asking whether the book is as "incisive and well reasoned" as it claims to be, we offer the following comment by Dr. Clair M. Cook, Educational Director of the Religion and Labor Council of America:

... This is a highly biased pro-company blast at the Auto Workers' conduct of the 6-year-long Kohler strike and at the National Labor Relations Board, which finally ruled last August in favor of the union. It tries to justify the company position point by point and to prove that the NLRB is biased and should be eliminated. Kohler is portrayed as a company wronged by the NLRB in a violence-ridden situation while doing its best to serve its employees. The author concludes that: "The National Labor Relations Board be abolished. Finally, full jurisdiction and power must be restored to the state and federal courts . . . unions (should) represent only those employees who want such representation, not those who vote against it. The duty to bargain must be repealed . . ." In short, let's go back to the conditions prevailing in the early 1930's before we developed specialized and orderly procedures to govern labor-management relations.

The "Eisenhower board" which ruled in August, 1960, that Kohler had failed to bargain in good faith and had indulged in a series of unfair labor



This past summer several hundred United Church of Christ ministers and lay people studied ways of making their Christian witness in the common life more effective in four regional Christian Social Action institutes and one youth institute. Above Dr. Ray Gibbons, Director of the Council for Christian Social Action, leads a group on the campus of Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

- October 17-19—World Order—United Nations Seminar, New York City.
- October 22—World Order Sunday.
- October 22-27—National Study Conference on The Churches and Social Welfare, Cleveland, Ohio.
- November 3—World Community Day
- January 21-28—Church and Economic Life Week.
- January 28-31—Council for Christian Social Action, Buck Hill Falls, Pa.
- February—MONTH OF EMPHASIS FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION.
- February 6-8—Seminar on Christian Farmer and His Government, Washington, D. C.
- February 11—Race Relations Sunday.
- February 27-March 2, 1962—Churchmen's Washington Seminar, Washington, D. C.

practices has not been notably pro-labor. Yet a majority of four held that after June 1, 1954, what began as an "economic strike" became an "unfair labor practices" strike; the fifth member went further, holding it was unfair from the start because of Kohler's "fixed intent" "to precipitate a situation which would enable it to rid itself of the union." Kohler has had to issue 'return to work' offers to 1400 strikers, a bitter pill, although contesting. This book amounts to a brief arguing for reversal of the Board ruling.

Petro makes no mention of the notorious 11-week strike in 1934, in which company guards fired into a crowd at the main gate, killing two and wounding forty-seven. Following the breaking of the AFL union then, a company union existed for nearly twenty years, until in 1953 the UAW won bargaining rights but little more; even arbitration was a bone of contention in negotiations. Cost of the strike included more than ten million dollars from the UAW treasury. The NLRB investigation wound up with six million words and nineteen hundred exhibits in the record; its decision, in the words of Father Charles Owen Rice in *Commonweal* last November 11, gave "virtually complete victory and vindication to the strikers and their union!"

SERVICE OF INDUCTION

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people to share in determining its policies. In such a situation, he stated, the churches must bring to their relations with government objectivity, competence, and genuine humility as well as the utmost unity among themselves.

An afternoon meeting with United Church pastors of the Baltimore-Washington area and a fellowship dinner in which members of our churches related to the federal government were guests of honor preceded the service.

PROVIDES FOR CO's

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ention to provisions made for conscientious objectors.

To facilitate their registration, the Council for Christian Social Action has printed a form in triplicate calling for information as to the name, church affiliation, occupation, and relevant beliefs of those who claim recognition as conscientious objectors. One copy of this form may be filed with the individual's home congregation, one with the Council's Cleveland Office, and one retained by the individual himself. The value of this procedure lies not only in its providing evidence, as in the case of an appeal, that a person has searched his mind and sought to express it as a Christian objector, but in its enabling both his own church and the Council to offer friendly help as it may be needed. There are presently 88 names on file with CCSA.

With the stepping up of draft calls and the possible extension of duty for persons on active military service, conscientious objectors will be affected in the same proportions as our other draftees. According to current information, it is not likely that there will be any drastic effect on current draft procedures. Individuals claiming conscientious objection should register under Selective Service procedures at the usual time, being especially careful to answer properly the question in their classification questionnaire having to do with conscientious objection, and filling out carefully also the special form (SSS-150) which is for the use of conscientious objectors.

The Council for Christian Social Action has prepared an informational packet on conscientious objection which includes the CCSA form for CO's, a bulletin on *Conscientious Objectors and the United Church of Christ*, and other material. It may be secured for 25c from the Reverend Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 West 25th Street, Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Additional copies of the General Synod statements may be secured at 10c each, 5c each for orders of 20 or more.

"FAMILY" PACKET READY

The CCSA is happy to state that its packet on "The Christian Family and Rapid Social Change" is now ready and available from either the New York or the Cleveland office, at \$1 each.

For reason beyond our control the Study Guide for the Coordinate Emphasis projected by the National Council of Churches is not yet off the press. Until it is ready, a report of the Lambeth Conference on the Family Today and an analysis of Family Life in America, by Muriel S. Webb are being substituted.

Local Action on Migrants

The Social Action Committee of the Community Congregational Church and the students of the Wesley Foundation of Pullman, Washington, where the Washington State University is situated, began independently last spring to consider the problem of migratory agricultural labor. At about the same time, KING-TV in Seattle produced a film, *Bitter Harvest*, dealing with the migrant labor situation on the state.

It soon became evident that legislative action was needed to correct the abuses, and it was also discovered that such a program had been recently enacted in Oregon due in large part to the concern of the churches.

As a result, a resolution was drafted by the Social Action Committee of the Community Church and taken to Olympia, the state capital, by a group of Wesley Foundation students. Two senators agreed to introduce a measure calling for an investigation by the Legislative Council which is charged with drafting legislation. This resolution was passed

on March 9 and on May 6 referred to the Labor Committee.

Soon after the passage of the resolution, letters and telegrams prompted by the Social Action Committee of the church were sent urging that the study be given to the Labor Committee. The Social Action Committee and Conference staff of the Washington Congregational Conference cooperated, with the result that letters were sent to Olympia from all over the state.

The Pullman group, under the leadership of Mrs. J. Patrick McConnell, chairman of the Social Action Committee, and the Reverend George Mink, Methodist minister to students, then proceeded to organize area citizen's committees on migrant affairs. These will aid the investigating committee, help create favorable public opinion for the protection of the rights of migrant laborers, and gain support among the members of the state legislature.

The Reverend Ted Edquist is minister of the Community Congregational Church.

Council Elects Officers, New Members

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for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church were finally free to make preparations to terminate their work and to transfer their responsibilities and programs completely over to the new Council. It is hoped that on or before December 31, 1961 these two uniting organizations can complete all necessary steps and that the CCSA can take over responsibility for staff and finances.

Toward this end the Council approved a budget of \$294,300 for the year 1962, of which it is expected that \$270,300 will be contributed by our congregations through the United Church apportionment. A schedule of salaries and personnel policies, carefully prepared by a special committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Clarence E. Josephson, and recommended by the executive committee, was approved by the Council.

The Council also adopted By-Laws for

its operation. These provide for two meetings annually, for an executive committee, and for six standing committees—economic life, international relations, publications, racial and cultural relations, religious and civil liberties, and social welfare. In order to assure orderly and responsible development of public pronouncements it was provided that approval shall require the consent of two-thirds of the membership of the Council.

Chosen as chairman of the standing committees provided for in the By-Laws were the Reverend Roy Eilers, economic life; the Reverend A. Wm. Loos, international relations; the Reverend Ralph D. Hyslop, publications; the Reverend George D. Alley, racial and cultural relations; the Reverend Emerson Hanger, religious and civil liberties; and the Reverend Alfred F. Schroeder, social welfare.

The mid-winter meeting of the Council will be held January 28 to 31 in connection with the proposed United Church Assembly at The Inn, Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania.

SOCIAL SECURITY ACT AMENDED

On June 30, President Kennedy signed Public Law 87-64, passed by the Congress. This embodies certain amendments to previous legislation regarding OASDI:

1. Minimum monthly benefits are increased from \$33 to \$40, effective August 1, 1961.

2. The earned income limitation of retired persons is liberalized. They may continue to earn \$1200 a year without reduction of benefits. Earnings in excess of \$1200 and up to \$1700 are subject to a reduction of \$1 in benefits for every \$2 earned. Thus a person earning \$1700 will experience a reduction of \$250 in OASDI benefits. For earned income above \$1700 he loses a \$1 benefit for every \$1 earned.

3. Men (as well as women) may retire and receive benefits at age 62. Such benefits, however, are to be paid at the rate of 80% of those available if retirement begins at age 65.

4. Widows' benefits are increased from 75% to 82% of the amount of husbands' benefits. This amounts to a 10% increase for widows 65 years of age.

5. The maximum tax base, \$4800 of earned income, remains the same; but the tax rate is increased, effective January 1962. The present tax rate and the new one compare as follows:

	1961	1962
Employee	3.0%	3.125%
Employer	3.0%	3.125%
Self-Employed	4.5%	4.7%

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

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News and Program Service of the
Council for Christian Social Action
of the United Church of Christ
Ray Gibbons, Director

Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscriptions, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, \$2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY AND RAPID SOCIAL CHANGE

Suggestions for Action in Your Church

Last month CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY announced the Coordinated Emphasis on the "Christian Family and Rapid Social Change" sponsored by the denominations cooperating in the National Council of Churches. We listed some of the resources which have been prepared for use in our churches.

The following are some of the activities which can be carried on to give this Emphasis vitality and meaning in our congregations:

- Use the September issue of SOCIAL ACTION, the study guide prepared by the Department of Family Life of the National Council of Churches, and the CCSA packet on *The Christian Family and Rapid Social Change*.
- Show and provide for discussion of *Buyers' Choice*. A film use guide is available from the Bureau of Audio-Visuals.
- Read *Sex Ways—in Fact and Faith* and seek to develop attitudes which will help to meet constructively some of the problems outlined in the book.
- Develop a circulating library on family life. A good bibliography will be found in the May issue of the *International Journal of Religious Education*.
- Conduct courses in preparation for marriage as well as parents' classes which will help families to face their moral, spiritual, and ethical problems.
- Call attention to the redemptive message of the Gospel, and to the role the church can play in aiding unved mothers and their children as well as

other persons in trouble to find acceptance in the church and community.

- Use community resources to meet crises when they arise and, where needed and advisable, establish marriage counselling programs with professional leadership.
- Study and support social measures which can strengthen families; such as, uniform marriage and divorce laws, clinics and educational programs for family planning, low cost housing, fair employment practices commissions, wider minimum wage coverage.
- Help Christian families find ways to fulfill their Christian calling by serving and transforming contemporary society through positive action programs. Dr. Myron Fowell's *Christian Social Action for Churches and Families* (included in the CCSA study packet) is especially useful. It discusses a wide range of social problems and gives a hundred suggestions for action projects in which families can engage.
- Cooperate with state and local councils of churches in workshops or consultations related to the Emphasis theme.

It is expected that in many areas, the Conference and Synod through their committees on Christian Education Health and Welfare services, Christian social action, and lay organizations will take the initiative in conducting conferences on "The Christian Family and Rapid Social Change."

TWO FEBRUARY SEMINARS

The Council for Christian Social Action is cooperating with the Departments of Town and Country Church in offering a limited number of scholarships to a seminar on "The Christian Farmer and His Government." Sponsored by the Department of the Church and Economic Life of the National Council of Churches, this will be held in Washington, D. C. February 6 to 8, 1962 in the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1313 New York Avenue, NW. Applications for ministers or members of the United Church should be submitted to

the Reverend Shirley E. Greene, Town and Country Church secretary, 1720 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis 3, Missouri.

The Interdenominational Churchmen's Washington Seminar will be held February 27 until March 2. Since the United Church has a limited registration quota, all applicants are urged to send their registration requests with a \$12 fee to Miss Elizabeth Johns, Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, New York.